

Parish of the

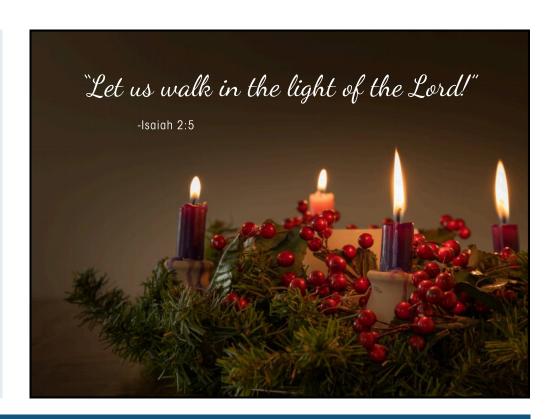
Holy Cross



Let All Who Enter Be Welcomed as Christ!

Vision Statement:

Holy Cross is a vibrant Catholic community striving to maintain a spirit of welcome to all, serving as a guiding beacon to nourish and sustain prayer, work and play.



First Sunday of Advent - November 30, 2025



Come and Pray with Us!

We celebrate Eucharist

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM; Saturday 5:00 PM; Sunday 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM The 9:00 Weekday Mass & Sunday 11:30 Mass are livestreamed on Facebook.

We celebrate Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM; Wednesday after 9:00 AM Mass



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

PASTORAL TEAM

PHONE: (631) 265-2200 FAX: (631) 265-2229 EMAIL: parish@holycrossrc.org

> PARISH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - THURSDAY 9 AM - 4 PM (closed 12:15-1 PM)

> > Parish Office FRIDAY HOURS 9 AM - 12 NOON

9 AM - 12 NOON

PASTORAL STAFF

Dr. Vincent Mazurek **Webmaster**

Mr. Roberto Maza **Custodian**

Mr. Joseph Santoro
Office Support Staff

Mrs. Susan Ribeiro **Bulletin Editor**

email: susanr@holycrossrc.org

NEW OUTREACH HOURS: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

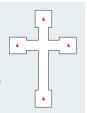
Evening Hours by Appointment Only



Visit our website at **www.holycrossrc.org** for more information on how we can serve you.



AWAITING THE PROMISE OF PEACE



Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael

Our Advent season begins with some of the classic Old Testament images that are found in Isaiah. We hear about a shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse's tree as well as swords being turned into pruning hooks. These are both signs to the Jewish people of how the power and presence of God can transform lives and bring hope. We are familiar with these images and how they were used long ago, but are they taken seriously and believe that they truly can be signs of God at work in our lives today?

(Bear with me, I have already shared this story with you.) One summer when I was in St. Sylvester's Church in Medford I came up with a project for the parish. I set out to build a labyrinth. A labyrinth is a prayer path. It is different from a maze as there are no dead ends or wrong turns to take. It is a single winding path that eventually leads to the center of a large circle. The borders of the paths were formed with thousands of seashells that we asked parishioners to bring in. I found a large tree that had recently fallen. I cut a four foot length of the tree trunk and I buried it standing upright in the center of the labyrinth to serve as a focal point. I enlisted the help of parishioners and the project was completed at the end of August 2001. Needless to say, a little more than a week later we faced the horror of terrorist attacks in our backyard.

As you recall those days were filled with fear, turmoil and uncertainty. People were seeking direction and guidance by coming to Church. We did not have any profound answers to offer, but people's faith became a source of solace and hope. Many people were using the labyrinth as part of their prayer. After a few weeks something very unexpected happened. From that seemingly dead stump in the middle of the labyrinth green shoots began to grow out of the side. I'm not saying this was some sort of miracle. As long as there is any life in the tree, it will continue to grow. But this stark contrast became a focus in which many found comfort: new life coming from a place that was seemingly barren.

Once again, we await the celebration of Our Savior coming into the world. Christmas is filled with many images and catch phrases. In the routine and busyness of the celebration we might lose sight that these are more than just holy sounding words. We believe in the power of God to transform all things. We also find ourselves again in the midst of uncertain times. There is fear and worry that surround many of the aspects of life in which we are immersed. I'm not suggesting that come December 25 everything is fine. But I earnestly believe to find the path that we must walk cannot be done apart from the promise and presence of our Lord. God's wisdom doesn't often follow conventional wisdom and tradition. If God is not part of the journey and process there will never be peace, there will never be security. Allow the promises that have been given us to be part of our vision for life. God wants us to know of His power, we need to allow space for God to do what only God can do. During these holy days, we open our hearts to God's Spirit that can bring life out of death and truly become for us our source of hope.



"Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace – in peace because they trust in You."

-Isaiah 26:3

NOVEMBER 2025

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CELEBRANTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



DECEMBER 6

5:00 PM FR. FRANK/DCN. JOE

DECEMBER 7

8:00 AM FR. FRANK/DCN. JOE

> 9:30 AM FR. MICHAEL

11:30 AM FR. MICHAEL



SCRIPTURE READINGS for DECEMBER 7

- + Isaiah 11:1-10
- + Romans 15:4-9
- + Matthew 3:1-12

ON THE CALENDAR

2:00PM & 7:00PM, Worship Area	ADVENT MISSION
Monday, December 1st4:00PM - 6:00PM, Worship Area, Atr	
Monday, December 1st7:00PM - 8:30PM, Fr. Joe Room	ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE
Tuesday, December 2nd 10:00AM, Fr. Joe Room	IN STITCHES
Wednesday, December 3rd 9:30AM - 11:30AM, Atrium, Fr. Joe Ro	DRESS A GIRL
Wednesday, December 3rd 1:30PM - 3:00PM, Fr. Joe Room	BEREAVEMENT
Thursday, December 4th 10:00AM, Atrium	SCRIPTURE STUDY
Thursday, December 4th7:00PM, Fr. Joe Room	PRAYER SERVICE MEETING
Saturday, December 6th3:45PM - 4:45PM, Worship Area	HOLY HOUR
Sunday, December 7th9:30AM after Mass, Worship Area	ANOINTING OF THE SICK
Sunday, December 7th 11:30AM Mass, Fr. Joe Room	. CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD
Sunday, December 7th 11:30AM Mass, Atrium	LAST DAY TO RETURN ANGEL GIFTS

All Christmas greenery pre-orders will be distributed next weekend December 6th & 7th



Advent Wreaths will be blessed at all Masses this weekend.

Visit our website at **www.holycrossrc.org** to find out more about the different ministries we have to offer, how you can be involved, and when they meet.

WE PRAY...CELEBRATE...REMEMBER



Upcoming Mass Intentions

Week of Sunday, November 30 9:00AM Masses:

Mon. Sally Nappo

Tues. Kristina Egan (living) **Wed.** James W. Corrigan Jr.

Thur. Johanna Kelly

Saturday, December 6, 5PM Mass

Patrick Keena Jr., Luna Dawson, Bing Eng, Nicholas Mancini, Thomas Barrett, Balbina Zilnicki

Sunday, December 7, Masses Second Sunday of Advent

8:00AM Mary Jane & Harold Smith **9:30AM** Jack Hough, Manuel Coelho, Francisco Veloso, Gerald Pisapia, Marge Cortegiano, Victoria Bucci **11:30AM** People of the Parish

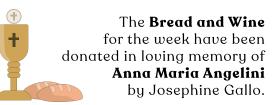


Banns of Marriage

Jenna Fanelli & Vincent Matula Alyssa Lebron & John Wolczok



We thank the men and women who serve in our military for their service.



Please pray for those in our parish who are sick, their families and caregivers

Bob Alderdice Alejandro Astegiano Jo Barry Kathy Barry Alison Bilski Cole Brennan Laurie Bronzino Veronica Buscemi Judy Carlson Mary Champagne Peter Chirafisi William Ciccarelli Stephen Crawford Kimberly Crawford-Arbocus Grayson Danielski Anthony DeGennaro Manuela Diaz Peter DiMauro Ann Egan Lisa Eger Vincent Esposito Ralph Farino Yolanda Fattarusso Sienna Fricke Linda Giordano James Greene Linda Heinrichs Ralph Hughes Ryan Huscher Debbie Jablinowski Kristen Kennedy

Caroline Lazar Carol Leahy Victor Lewandowski Mary Lopez Gerald Losquadro Jeanne Marie Malley Janet Mangano Steve Matonti Olivia Melia Geraldine Muscarnere Loretto Narducci Andrea Nocito Darin Pitkanen Patricia Pitkanen Colleen Prinz Carina Ranieri Bernardine Reichbach Rob Remhild Christine Ridulfo Lynn Rodger Sean Romeo Elaine Ruane Jacqueline Santamaria Casey Schultz Kathy Schwinn John Serri Celeste Sichenze Todd Skala Sue Southard Bill Tanner Calvin Tatone Grace Van Epps Peter Warns

If you would like to have the name of your loved one listed in our prayers for the sick, please call 631-265-2200 x122.



Sunday, December 7th, will be the next date that the Anointing of the Sick will be offered after the 9:30 AM Mass

PARISH OUTREACH

Outreach Thanksgiving Thank You!

This year 44 beautiful baskets were distributed to our families in need.

We are so grateful for the volunteers who shopped and created these one-of-a-kind baskets! The families who received baskets were overwhelmed by the generosity of our parish community. We also distributed bags of pantry staples to each family for the days and weeks after Thanksgiving. This was a new project created this year. It was our response to the instability of the SNAP situation. Thank you to all the volunteers who accepted the challenge to shop and prepare these items for our Outreach families. You are amazing!

Thank you to Brandon and Susan Bayer for donating 44 pumpkin pies that were given to our Outreach families. I am so grateful to you both for your support and generosity. It was a wonderful surprise for all our Outreach families. Thank you for making their Thanksgiving so special.

This is a big project, and many hands are needed to make it happen. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked on Basket Day, on sign-up weekend, and those who gave monetary donations and gift cards. With your help, we were able to help 44 families have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Thank you!

I must say a big thank you to Ken and Beth Rivalsi, and John and Susan Lampach, for delivering to our homebound families. With the added bags and spectacular baskets, it was a huge undertaking. Thank you!

Special thanks to our Thanksgiving Coordinators Susan Lampach and Joellen May Wadsworth who organized the whole project. You did a spectacular job and I am grateful.

I would be remiss if I did not thank my office partner, Michele Alderdice, for all her help this Thanksgiving season and throughout the year. Thank you, Michele!

May the blessings of Thanksgiving remain with you and your families during the coming year.

Peace, Kelley



We will meet on Wednesday, December 3, 9:30AM - 11:30AM in the Atrium

Every girl should have the chance to receive, own and wear a new dress. Our "Dress a Girl" ministry helps make this possible. We gather monthly to lovingly create dress kits at our "Cut-Ups" session. These dress kits are then available to take home, where skilled sewists create beautiful dresses. We hope that each dress symbolizes how special and loved each girl is. Our prayers are with them all.

We are looking for sewists and donations of fabric to continue our ministry.

Do you like to sew? If creating a beautiful dress in the comfort of your own home, sharing your talent and making a difference to a young girl sounds like something you may be interested in, then the "Dress a Girl" Ministry is for you!

If your talent lies in sewing, contact the Outreach office to make arrangements to pick up your "take home dress kit." Instructions and support are available as you create a dress from one of our dress kits.

If you would like to join us, we meet monthly to create the dress kits. We are so grateful for all those who played a part in our "Dress a Girl" Ministry. This ministry could not exist without the many volunteers who have cut out a dress, sewn a dress or donated fabric. We need fabric to keep creating these beautiful dresses and offering hope. We are in need of 2-3 yards of a cotton blend fabric. We invite you to be part of this ministry by donating fabric and helping to support the good work that we are doing. All donations can be brought to the Outreach office.

If you are interested in joining our "Dress a Girl" ministry or have any questions, please contact Kelley in the Outreach office at 631-265-2200. Thank you!!!



If you are participating in our "Be an Angel" Christmas program, next weekend, December 6th and 7th, will be your LAST OPPORTUNITY to return your angel gifts or gift cards.

If you have not had an opportunity to participate, this will be the last week Angels will be available. Remember to indicate the amount of the gift card on the envelope or on the card itself with a marker.

Our Outreach committee will be sorting the gifts by Sunday, December 7th.

Unfortunately, gifts that come in after December 7th may not go to the people in need of them.

Thank you for understanding our need to have all Angel items returned by Sunday, December 7th, so that they can be distributed during that week.

Please be mindful of the following instructions for ease of distribution:

We are requesting gift cards from these local stores (Target, Wal-Mart) to enable our families to purchase for themselves and their children the items they need.

We are also requesting supermarket gift cards to enable each household to have a special holiday meal.

(Reminder: gift cards need to be activated at the register)

Sometimes Angels get separated from the actual gift card when they are returned. We ask that you, in permanent marker, mark the amount of each gift card purchased directly on the gift card.

This can be done on the top right of the front or back of the card. This would be very helpful in eliminating the time-consuming job of calling for amounts on cards of unknown amounts.

Thank you in advance for your help in this matter.

Some Angels are coded (orange, purple, green, red) for the agencies we reach out to each year (Mercy Haven, Talbot House, Pronto, Olsen's Rest Home). If you choose one of these angels, attach the Angel on top of the item with tape and return it to the Atrium by Sunday, December 7th.

When you purchase a gift card, please put the gift amount on the gift card.

This information is needed so parish outreach can distribute the cards equally. *Gift cards do not need to be wrapped.*Please put the gift card in an envelope and place it in the GIFT BOX on the table near our Angel signs.

Please do not wrap gift items or gift cards.

This makes it easier on sorting day to count and distribute to the agencies.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Gifts and gift cards can be returned until next weekend at Mass or dropped off during the week at the Parish Office.

<u>PLEASE NOTE: Sunday, December 7th, is the last day</u> <u>to return gifts and gift cards.</u>

We thank you for the Spirit of Generosity you bring to our program each year.

-Parish Outreach





Grateful, Thankful, Blessed

We would like to thank the following catechists for their dedication to teaching our young people and helping them grow in their faith through our Religious Education program:

Level 2

Kerin Beedenbender Meaan Boccard Cristyn D'Amico Kristen Donohue Lilianne Korovezos Laura Krummenacker Wiliam Madden Marianne Marquart Nicole Martocci Marta Misztal Kristin Murphy Danielle Neri Alyssa Ochrym Miladys Ortega Kim Pelan Samantha Peterson Tracy Reilly Angela Richford Deanna Rosenberg Jenise Scanlon Poliana Schmitt Maria Wenstrom Samantha Zambrzycki Nicole Zinerco

Level 5

Karyn Gillan
Erika Lazzaruolo
Amber Lerner
Rosann Markowitz
Melissa Martinez
Nicole Petrocelli
Sabrina Pupplo
Tracy Reilly
Deanna Rosenberg
Jenilee Santiago
Nicole Suridis
Kelly Tartamella
Dawn Thelian
Jennifer Welsh

We are so thankful for you all!

Level 3

Melissa Batista Elizabeth Jedrys Marissa DelColle Janine Downing Lisa Eger Elizabeth Gibbons Rosann Markowitz Eluisa Mastro Lisa Modafferi Danielle Neri Diane Palermo Keri Patnaude Fran Pekor Marianne Perkins Kelly Rappa Deanna Rosenberg Jaclyn Sorce

Level 6

Laura Albanese Michele Alderdice Diana Anderson Eric Barker Melissa Bruno Nicole Chwalek Paula Cottone Kristin Donohue Heather Ferraro Christine Gherardi Elizabeth Gibbons Lori Harned Cynthia Howard Kristin King Laura Krummenacker Nicole Martocci Jennifer Miller Lorraine Pace Keri Patnaude Deanna Rosenberg Allie Troiano Kathleen Vitale

Level 4

Kimberly Arbocus Katie Bacigalupo Kerin Beedenbender Joanne Cangeleri Michelle Chorney Paula Cottone Rita Dychkowski Irene Feldman Jessica Folev Laura Krummenacker Meredith Murolo Mary Pannone Nicole Petrocelli Tracy Reilly Robin Rostron Maria Wenstrom Angela Wichtendahl

Level 7

Michele Alderdice Melissa Bruno Christina Clifford Joy DeDonato Rita Dychkowski Colleen Feulner Amy Jaekle Michelle Keane Nicole Kearnes Jennifer Miller Kathleen Nasta Donna Nasso Diane Palermo Tracy Reilly Robin Rostron Kelly Ruggiero Dawn Thelian

Level 8

Melissa Calefato
Linda Ceighton
Jennifer Draney
Anthony Greco
Amber Lerner
Josephine Matula
Thomas Mayer
Jennifer Miller
Raymond Muchow
Jenine Naples
Vivian Oleska
Lorraine Pace
Ivelysse Powers
Katie Risolo
Beth Rivalsi

PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY





An Advent Reflection on Hope

Monday, December 1st, Afternoon & Evening 2:00PM & 7:00PM

An Advent Reflection on Hope presented by Montfort Missionary Fathers Tom Poth, SMM and Donald LaSalle, SMM.

Please mark your calendars and join us! All are welcome!



Bring your Advent Wreath to Mass during the weekend of November 29th and November 30th to have your wreath blessed.



Advent Prayer

as you light the candles

The liturgical year begins with
Advent, a word derived from Latin
that means "coming."
During Advent we prepare to
celebrate the birth of Christ,
and we look forward to Christ's
second coming at the end of time.



Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You sent your Son to be the Light of the world and to spread his light of love to all.

As we light the candles of this wreath, may its growing brightness remind us of the approaching nearness of your Son so that the day of His coming may find us prepared and filled with joy.

We ask this through Christ our Lord

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

This prayer is brought to you from Loyola Press. Find more about Advent at www.loyolapress.com



Practice of Faith

WORKS (Excerpt from "At Home with the Word 2026")

Advent is the time to prepare Christ's kingdom for His second coming. How can you prepare?

The advent wreath is a perfect symbol of prayer. The candle reminds us to walk in the light of the Lord. Set up an Advent wreath in a place of prayer in your home.

At times we may use words that hurt others. Examine your conscience. Have you hurt others with harsh criticism? Have you been jealous of what others have? You can start to bring peace by praying for their good. Ask their forgiveness and participate in the sacrament of penance.

Pope Francis, in his *Angelus* message of the Solemnity of All Saints, 2022, made these suggestions: "In the places where we live, study and work, do we...open up the way of peace, forgiving those who have offended us? Do we care for those who are on the margins, do we redress some injustice by helping those who have less? This is called building peace."



PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY



Are you in fourth grade (or above) and interested in becoming an **Altar Server?**

We are in need of additional young people to help serve at Mass. This is an important ministry that benefits the entire parish. You will be taught everything you need to know. You will be scheduled to serve once or twice a month.

If interested, please call or e-mail Fr. Michael frmholycross@gmail.com



and leave a message for Brian Reich, our Director of Music Ministry, or stop by and see Brian at Mass! Thank you! 631-265-2200



Children's Liturgy of the Word

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at the 11:30AM Mass

JOIN US

on Sunday, December 7th.



Children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade

"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." -Matthew 24:44



HOLY HOUR

Saturday, December 6th 3:45pm - 4:45pm in the Worship Area

Please come and spend some time with the Lord in personal prayer as you pray before the Blessed Sacrament during the Parish Holy Hour.



Join us for conversation and laughs as we work on new or unfinished knitting, crocheting, quilting, needlepoint, crafts or sewing projects.

Tuesday, December 2nd, 10AM to 12PM in the Father Joe Room

Contact: JoEllen May-Wadsworth (631) 360-1373 EMail: <u>jpmclady@yahoo.com</u>

(631) 265-2200 www.holycrossrc.org



Youth Community Cares

"Serving our youth as our youth serve others"

Thank you
to all our youth volunteers
who are making a difference
in our church community!

Prayer Blanket
Ministry
Event







20 blankets were made by 31 young people Friday night and blessed at the 5PM Mass last Saturday. **Well done, volunteers!**



































After making the blankets, our volunteers were able to enjoy some time having hot chocolate and snacks, and playing games.

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